Number of Attempts for UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) for EWS Candidates

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The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination (CSE) is one of the most prestigious competitive exams in India. The number of attempts a candidate can make varies based on their category. For candidates belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), the number of attempts allowed is **six**, which is the same as that for General category candidates.

Number of UPSC Attempts for EWS Candidates

The number of attempts permitted for different categories of candidates is as follows:

- **General category**: **6 attempts** until the age of **32**
- **OBC category**: **9 attempts** until the age of **35**
- **SC/ST category**: **Unlimited attempts** until the age of **37**
- **Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD)**: **9 attempts** until the age of **42**

Eligibility Criteria & Attempt Limits for EWS Candidates

The EWS category is applicable to candidates who belong to the General category but meet certain economic criteria. To qualify for the **EWS reservation**, a candidate's family income should be **below Rs. 8 lakh per annum**. The EWS category provides a **10% reservation** in government jobs and educational institutions, including UPSC recruitments.

Age Relaxation for EWS Candidates

Unlike OBC, SC, and ST candidates, EWS candidates do not get **any age relaxation**. The **upper age limit** remains **32 years**, which is the same as that for General category candidates.

Attempt Count in UPSC CSE

An **attempt is counted** when a candidate appears for **any paper** of the **Preliminary**

Examination. If a candidate registers for the exam but does not appear for either of the two papers, the attempt is **not counted**.

Reservation in UPSC for SC/ST/OBC/EWS Categories

The Government of India provides **category-based reservations** in the UPSC Civil Services Examination:

- **SC/ST candidates**: **15% (SC) and 7.5% (ST) reservation**
- **OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) candidates**: **27% reservation**
- **EWS candidates**: **10% reservation**

Recent Developments: Madhya Pradesh High Court's Decision

On **January 2, 2025**, the **Madhya Pradesh High Court** directed the **UPSC** to provide EWS candidates with the same benefits as other reserved categories. This includes **five years of age relaxation** and **nine attempts** instead of six. If implemented, this would significantly impact the eligibility criteria for EWS candidates in future UPSC exams.

UPSC: MP High Court Grants Major Relief to EWS Candidates for CSE-2025

In a landmark ruling, the **Madhya Pradesh High Court** has **granted EWS candidates a five-year age relaxation and increased the number of attempts to nine**. This decision aligns EWS candidates with other reserved categories and ensures fairer opportunities in UPSC CSE.

Key Highlights of the High Court Ruling:

- EWS candidates can now apply for **UPSC CSE until the age of 37** instead of 32.
- The **number of attempts** has been increased from **6 to 9**.
- This ruling is expected to be a **historic step towards equality** in administrative services.

The decision was made following a petition filed by **Aditya Narayan Pandey from Maihar**, who argued that EWS candidates were being treated the same as General category candidates despite being part of a reserved section. The **division bench of Chief Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Vivek Jain** directed the **UPSC to**

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implement these changes and instructed that no appointment orders should be issued without prior approval.

The **court has scheduled a further hearing** to review UPSC's response regarding an extension of the application deadline. Meanwhile, EWS candidates are **now allowed to submit applications based on the updated criteria**.

With **979 vacancies** in **UPSC CSE 2025**, and the **Preliminary Examination set for May 25, 2025**, this ruling represents a **significant milestone** in providing a **fairer and more equitable selection process** for economically weaker candidates.

Conclusion

The number of attempts and age limits for EWS candidates currently remain the same as the General category, but recent legal developments may lead to changes. Candidates aspiring for the UPSC Civil Services Examination should stay updated with official UPSC notifications to know about any modifications in eligibility criteria or relaxations for the EWS category.

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